

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
MAY 13th, 2019 5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Brening

Councilmember Solomon Ferguson

Councilmember Bruce Burt

Councilmember Travis Ferguson

Councilmember Judy Foster

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Doug Westberry

City Attorney Nathan Lee

Chief of Police Gray Couch

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Travis Ferguson gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion made by Judy Foster to adopt the agenda. Motion was seconded by Solomon Ferguson. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Judy Foster, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 8th, 2019. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Judy Foster to approve the April 11th, 2019 work session minutes. Votes were 3 ayes with Travis Ferguson and Judy Foster abstaining.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the April 2019 Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Frances Tindle, Cross Creek Apartment Manager, had requested to be placed on the agenda but had notified the Clerk she would not be able to attend.

Nneka Carter with the Manchester Development Authority briefly updated the Mayor and Council with the recent activities of the authority. She presented a copy of the "Growing Manchester Logic Model" and gave examples of the activities occurring.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to appoint Reverend Craig Williamson to the Meriwether County Library Board with a new term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

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Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to reappoint Lisa Brening to the Meriwether County Library Board with a new term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019. Vote was 4 ayes with Mayor Brening abstaining.

Motion made by Judy Foster, seconded by Bruce Burt to issue The President Theatre an alcoholic beverage privilege license for retail consumption of malt beverage and wine on the premises. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Mayor Brening recognized the week of May 5, 2019 through May 11, 2019 as Municipal Clerks week and read aloud a Proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Municipal Clerk's Week. He expressed his appreciation on behalf of the council to City Clerk, Lea Spell.

A motion was made by Mike Brening for the Downtown Development Authority to return \$75,000 of an original \$125,000 that was given to the authority for the construction of an amphitheater back to the City. The remaining \$50,000 will be retained by the authority as advance payment of the normal once yearly budgeted amount of \$10,000 from the City with the fiscal year 2019-2020 being considered the second year of disbursement. The motion was seconded by Judy Foster. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

During the Mayor's comments, he expressed his condolences and the condolences of the city to Fire Chief Roderick Jolivette on the loss of his Mother. He asked everyone to keep the Chief and his family in their prayers during this difficult time.

Also discussed was the installation of a new flashing yellow light for left turns onto Perry Street off of 5th St as well as a yield sign to beside the laundromat to improve traffic flow in the area. The Mayor noted that he had discussed this with the Georgia Department of Transportation and that installation should begin in July.

Mayor Brening also mentioned the work that the Manchester Women's Club had completed at the butterfly garden at the mill and stated that a new bench, sign and plants were included in the improvements.

In the Mayor's closing comments, he presented a suggestion for the incomplete portion of the mural located on Broad St. He briefly gave an explanation of the design and councilmembers requested for him to bring a rendering for them to discuss further.

City Manager Doug Westberry informed the council that the State of Georgia has passed house bill number 978 allowing cameras in school zones to detect speeding. He and Chief Couch explained that they had been in discussion with a company offering this service and would bring further details to the Mayor and Council at a later date.

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Mr. Westberry also noted that the water meter installation project was nearing completion. He explained that there had been several calls regarding utility bills but that most were resolved to the customer's satisfaction.

Police Chief Gray Couch updated the Council on 2 armed robberies that happened at the Circle K in March and in April. He explained that the Columbus Police Department had been working on similar cases and his department were working together with them. He stated that Columbus PD had made one arrest in the case and the suspect was likely the same individual involved in the Manchester robberies. Chief Couch also thanked the Mayor and Council for the new patrol cars for his department and noted that all 6 were in service.

Motion made at 6:05 PM by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Judy Foster to adjourn. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

City Clerk Lea Spell

Mayor Michael J. Brening